

September Update-Nordegg Forest Harvesting Plan

September 2000

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What is it about?

Why are we doing a forest harvesting plan for this area?

The forest has reached maturity and, with stand break up, the fuel loading increases and raises the risk of wild-fire spread in the area. Fuel reduction and potential spread of wildfire can be effectively managed through forest harvesting by thinning stands, pruning lower branches and creating fuel breaks, such as trails and cut-blocks. Through planning, harvesting objectives can be accomplished and, at the same time, compliment the important values in the Nordegg area, such as recreation, tourism, environmental, social, historical and economic considerations.

Current Forest Management Plans and Integrated Resource Plans that cover this area allow for forest harvesting. These plans had public involvement in their development.

Harvesting has taken place in this area prior to 1960 and up to 1981.

Where is the area located?

The planning area is located mostly south and west of Nordegg and east of the Bighorn Wildland Recreation Area. The area is outside any existing Forest Management Agreement (FMA) areas. (See map below).

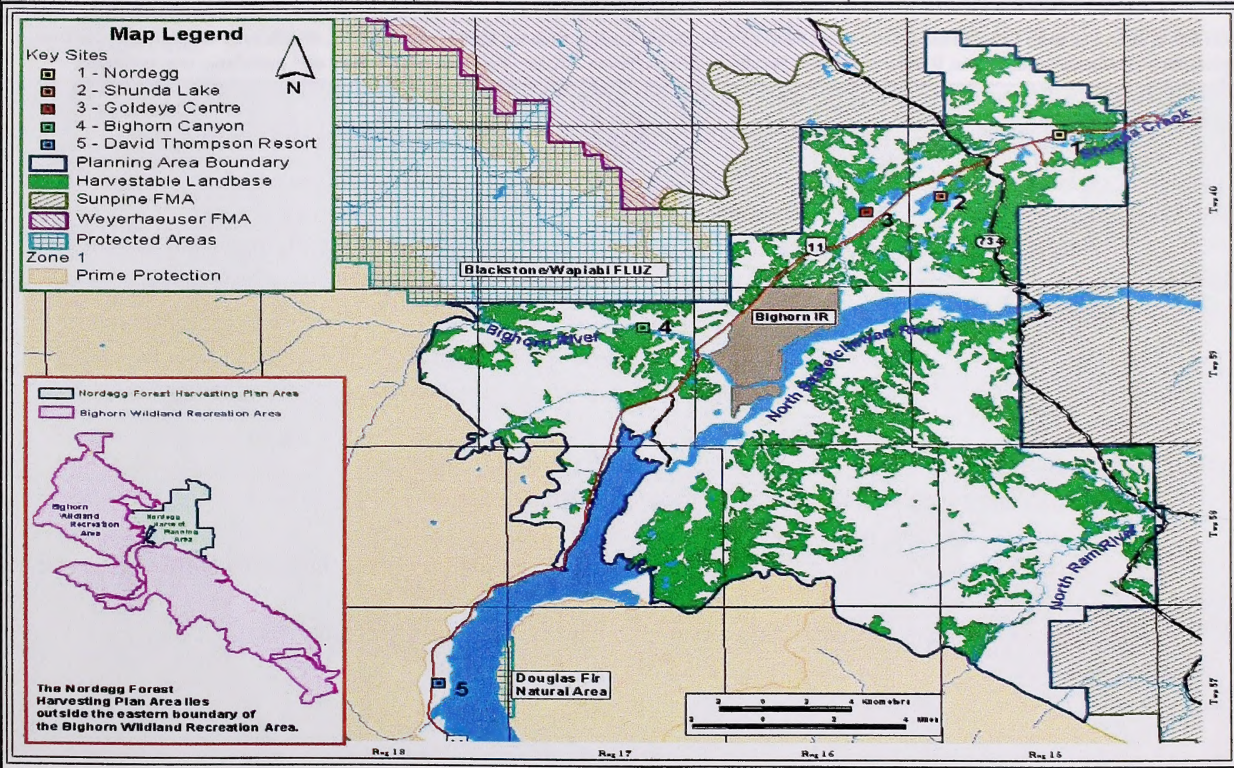
How much harvesting are we talking about?

This largely depends on the type or

method of harvesting decided from this public planning process. At this point, the area to be considered in a single year could be up to 350 hectares. The amount of timber actually taken from within a defined area will depend on the prescribed harvest methods.

What kind of harvesting methods will be used?

Selection, selective and clearcutting are all forms of harvesting. The goal is to focus on projects such as fuel and fire hazard reduction, trail building or wildlife enhancement areas.



Establishment of the Public Advisory Committee

An open house was held in Nordegg on April 18, 2000 to discuss the initiation of the Nordegg Forest Harvesting Planning process. Approximately 65 people attended over the evening. Feedback from this open house strongly supported establishing a Public Advisory Committee (PAC) to work with Environment staff in developing recommendations for the Forest Harvesting Plan.

Alberta Environment asked key stakeholder groups to select members to represent their interests on the Committee. On June 6, 2000, the first PAC meeting was convened. This newsletter is to introduce the PAC members and who they represent, explain their role, and outline what they are doing.



(From left to right) Top row: Dale Hansen, Tom Clark, Gerry Laslo, Doug Ritchie, Richard Smith (added picture), Middle row: Clayton Grosso, Darren Lagace, Roy Wirtanen, Bottom Row: Dirk Lundy, Steve Johnson, Alison Miller. Missing: Big Horn First Nation and petroleum representatives.

Role of the Public Advisory Committee

The Nordegg Forest Harvesting Public Advisory Committee (PAC) is made up of stakeholders who represent the following general interest sectors: the community of Nordegg, commercial tourism, (*resorts & campgrounds, eco-tourism and outfitting*) recreation (*motorized and non- motorized*), municipal government, trapping, timber operators, First Nations (*Big Horn and Sunchild*) and the petroleum industry. Each sector selected a primary and alternate representative to serve on the committee.

The mandate of the PAC is to work with and advise Alberta government staff on where and how harvesting should take place in the Nordegg area, which will sensitively take into account the various sector needs and issues identified.

Specifically, committee members will:

- help identify the issues and concerns related to harvesting,
- review and discuss various harvesting scenarios,
- provide recommendations on where and how harvesting should take place within the Nordegg harvest planning area,
- communicate with and represent their sector interests on the committee, and
- assist in soliciting broader public input at key stages in the process.

About the Committee Members

Alison Miller (*Community of Nordegg*)

Box 33, Nordegg, AB. T0M 2H0 Ph. (403) 721-3799

Alison has been a resident of Nordegg for 6 years. Formerly a co-manager of Shunda Creek hostel, she now is a commercial residential property owner who plans to set up a pottery and woodcarving studio. As an area resident, she would like to build tourism and maintain the area for natural wilderness recreation.

Roy Wirtanen (*Alternate - Community of Nordegg*)

Box 46, Nordegg, AB. T0M 2H0 Ph. (403) 721-2168

Roy moved to North Nordegg Subdivision in 1998 from Rocky Mountain House. He has a strong recreational interest in the area which includes hunting, fishing, hiking and ATV.

Doug Ritchie (*Resorts and Campgrounds*)

Box 1, Nordegg, AB. T0M 2H0

Ph. (403) 721-2202 Fax. (403) 721-2204

E-mail: frontldg@telusplanet.net

Doug Ritchie has lived in the Nordegg area for over 22 years as the Executive Director of Frontier Lodge. He teaches young people wilderness skills and proper backcountry ethics. He would like to see the area kept as natural as possible for ongoing recreational use. (*Alternate is Cheri Adolph Ph. (403) 721-2208*).

Richard Smith (*Eco-tourism/ Outfitting*)

Husky Wilderness Adventures Box 60, Nordegg, AB. T0M 2H0

Ph: (403) 721-2121 E-mail: Husky1@telusplanet.net

Richard is a guide and outfitter and has been in the eco-tourism business since 1981. He and his family have lived and worked in the Nordegg area since 1985.

Clayton Grosso (*Alternate - Eco-tourism/Outfitting*)

Box 684, Rocky Mountain House, AB. T0M 1T0

Ph. (403) 845-6840 or 721-2030

Clayton was born and raised in the Nordegg Area, where he and his family have had extensive experience working in the logging business. Former president of the Alberta Outfitters Association, he has been a guide and outfitter in the area since 1962.

Dirk Lundy (*Alternate - Trapping*)

Box 30, Nordegg, AB. T0M 2N0

Ph. (403) 721-2049 Pager 844-7765 Fax. 721-2049

Dirk is a senior holder of a trap line and has lived at Big Horn Reserve for 8 years. An outdoor person, he also hunts, fishes and backpacks in the area. (*Primary representative is Rudy Jackle Ph. (403) 845-3962*).

Tom Clark (*Clearwater County*)

RR1 Leslieville, AB. T0M 1H0 Ph. (403) 729-2340

Serving a second term as a county councillor, Tom would like to see orderly harvesting methods that would improve trail systems, maintain the ecological aspects of the area and focus on fuel and fire hazard reduction. (*Alternate is Randy Hill Ph. (403) 845-5246*). (3)

Gerry Laslo (*Alternate - Sunchild First Nation*)

P.O. Box 747

Rocky Mountain House, AB. T0M 1T0

Ph. (403) 989-3740 Fax. (403) 989-2533

Married to a band member, Gerry has lived at the Sunchild First Nation for the last twenty years. His involvement on the committee is to ensure culturally sensitive areas are protected within the harvest areas and to seek economic opportunities for the Sunchild Nation. (*Primary representative is Melvin Goodruning Ph. (403) 989-3740*.)

Dale Hansen (*Forest Industry*)

Box 191, Eckville, AB. T0M 0X0

Ph. (403) 746-2275 Fax: 746-3683

E-mail: hansen@oanet.com

Dale is a fourth generation farmer in the Eckville area and an owner of a sawmill operation called Hansen Forest Products Ltd. As a recreation user in the Nordegg area, with education in soil conservation, he believes he can contribute a great deal to the committee. (*Alternate is Bill Luoma Ph. (403) 845-2212*).

Steven Johnson (*Non-Motorized Recreation*)

Box 1, Nordegg, AB. T0M 2M0

Ph. (403) 721-2202 Fax. 721-2204

E-mail: frontldg@telusplanet.net

Steve has worked at Frontier Lodge since 1987 and lived in the Nordegg area since 1989, when he started the mountain bicycle program. As a board member of the Alberta Bicycle Association, he would like to see no logging in the area unless it directly benefits outdoor recreation and tourism. (*Alternate is Greg Mallo Ph. (403) 845-4337*).

Darren Lagace (*Motorized Recreation Users*)

RR#3, Site # 5, Box 12,

Rocky Mountain House, AB. T0M 1T0

Ph. (403) 844-7344 Fax. 845-3025.

Darren has lived in Rocky Mountain House for 3 years. A member of the Rocky Mountain House Snowmobile Club, he not only enjoys snowmobiling but also hiking, camping, and mountain biking. (*Alternates are Richard Artsen Ph. (403) 845-6567 or Al Adams Ph. (403) 844-0380*).

Missing:

Big Horn First Nation - Representatives are Peter Snow (403) 606-0392 or Barry Wesley (403) 721-2215.

Petroleum Industry - Representative to be selected.

Where Are We At?

The Public Advisory Committee (PAC) convened its first meeting on June 6, 2000 and has met, on average, every two to three weeks at the Nordegg Community Hall. Issues from the public open house were reviewed and further issues were identified by sector representatives and discussed as a committee. Based on the identified issues, the PAC has been defining objectives and criteria, which will be used to review and evaluate potential harvesting scenarios.

The Process *(Future timelines are estimates only).*

Public Open House (April 2000)



Formation of the Public Advisory Committee, with terms of reference. (June 2000)



Identification and discussion of issues, concerns and values. (July 2000)



Information gathering. Translation of issues into objectives and criteria. (August 2000)



*Newsletter to stakeholders and public _____ **We are here!** (September 2000)*



Review and evaluate potential demonstration harvesting sites for winter 2000-01. (October 2000)



Make recommendations to guide harvesting in the demonstration site(s). (October/ November 2000)



Monitor and evaluate demonstration harvesting site results. (Winter/Spring 2000-01)



Based on results, make final recommendations for harvesting. (Spring/Summer 2001)



Newsletter to stakeholders and public on the PAC recommendations. (Fall 2001)



Open house/public meeting to present and discuss the PAC recommendations. (Fall 2001)



Submission of the PAC's final harvesting recommendations. (Fall/Winter 2001)

How You Can Be Involved!

Here are a number of ways you can be kept informed or have input into the process.

- Put yourself on the mailing list.
- Contact a committee member who best shares your interests.
- Send in the response form contained in this newsletter.
- Send in a written submission.
- Attend the open house/public meeting scheduled in this process. *(It will be advertised in local newspapers.)*

RESPONSE FORM

Feel free to use this form if you have any comments or concerns you would like to express to the Committee. Remove this page and mail or fax it to the address indicated on the back page.

Thank you for your input!

WANT TO BE ON THE MAILING LIST?

If you wish to be on the mailing list, please fill out the following and send to the address indicated on the back page.

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____ POSTAL CODE _____

PHONE _____ FAX _____ E-MAIL _____

By providing your name and information, you are giving permission for Alberta Environment to put you on future mailing lists that pertain to this project. If you have any questions regarding the collection of this information, please contact the name indicated on the back page.

**Public Advisory Committee
Nordegg Forest Harvesting Plan
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Alberta Environment
Box 1720, Rocky Mountain House, AB.
T0M 1T0**

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